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June 9, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
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**Art Unit 2856**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 10/772,470; Filed: February 6, 2004  
For: **Vacuum Membrane Extraction System**  
Inventors: LaCOURSE *et al.*  
Our Ref: 2254.0010001/RWE/JKM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Executed Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b), with copies of the executed Assignment;
2. Executed Power of Attorney and Correspondence Address Indication Form;
3. Information Disclosure Statement;
4. List of cited references on Form PTO-1449 (1 page, citing 4 documents: **AA1-AC1 and AR1**);
5. A copy of the non-U.S. Patent reference cited on Form PTO-1449 (**AR1**); and
6. One (1) return postcard.

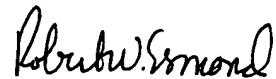
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
June 9, 2004  
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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RWE/JKM:bac  
Enclosures

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